

Secretary of State's Council on Library Development

Minutes

Daniel Boone Regional Library
Columbia, MO

Virginia Young Room

December 9, 2005

Members present: Darst, Shaw, Fares, Fridley, Carr, Hogerty, Wilke, Baker, Bray, Sundermeyer, Maxwell, Rickerson, Fuchs, Morrow, LeVota, Walker

Absent: Mayer, Moore

Guest Attending: Paul White – Mid-Continent Public Library
Tracy Byerly - Missouri Library Network Corp.
Margaret Booker – Missouri Library Association
Jeanne Sullivan – MOREnet
John Budd-SISLT
Margaret Conroy-MLA Legislative Chair
Randy Scherr-MLA Legislative Lobbyist
Gary Kremer-Missouri Historical Society
Doug Rayburn-SISLT

Staff present: Parker, B. Reading, Steinman, Dahms-Stinson, Very, Sites, Ramsey, M. Reading

Carr called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Council members and guests were introduced.

B. Reading introduced Jason Ramsey, the new Statewide and Community Partnership Consultant for the State Library.

Review and evaluation of the Summer Reading Program - Nancee Dahms-Stinson

Missouri has been a member of the Collaborative Summer Library Program for four years. It has grown from having eleven state members to currently having 33 states as members.

There is still a large segment of children in communities not served by a public library. This year, for the 2005 Summer Reading Program, there was a real push to get more involvement from the school libraries to partner with their local public library, to provide summer library program services to children through the school if a public library was not accessible.

Approximately 150,000 children participated in this year's summer reading program. This is approximately 10% of the youth population in Missouri. Seventy-four percent of the public libraries have reported cooperation with one or more schools. Attachment A shows in more detail the types of cooperation involved.

There was considerable positive feedback from school administrators. This year for the first time the State Library issued to the public libraries a blank master certificate which recognized the schools contribution to the summer reading program and noted how many children at that school participated in the program. The certificate was signed by Dr. D. Kent King, Commissioner of Education; Sara Parker, State Librarian; Secretary of State Robin Carnahan; and the director of the public library. Some of the certificates included the names of the students as well. In addition to receiving recognition from the public library, those students were also recognized by their schools. This had such an impact in some areas that the Greene County school superintendent contacted the school librarians and teachers in his district when the manuals for 2006 were distributed to make sure they were cooperating with the public library.

A number of public libraries were contacted and asked about the challenges and the positive things that had come from their collaboration with schools and what things were barriers. One library was a municipal library with no county library service. Non-resident youth from the county who wanted to check out books at this library would have to have a library card. Someone would have to pay for the library card for that child. This is just one of the problems being faced by some of the libraries. Hopefully there can be a collaborated effort between this library and a school within the area.

Right now the program is at 10% youth participation. There are a number of states that over the past four to five years have taken on the challenge of to make sure more children and young adults are reading during the summer months. In order to encourage more children to participate we need to promote the summer reading program where children are, such as in schools. Good progress has been made towards this. Summer reading needs to be fun, if it is not fun the children consider it as homework. It needs to be accessible. We have areas where the children do not have access to books.

More libraries need to be encouraged to conduct a summer reading program. There are too many libraries in Missouri that do not conduct a summer reading program. The challenge is not to try to find some time to have a summer reading program, it is to have a summer reading program. Libraries need to be made aware of how to conduct programs for teens. It needs to be promoted statewide and absolutely every person and entity that might have a share in this must buy in. It needs to be promoted not only to the schools but the boys and girls clubs, community partners, and to parents.

The funding needs to be increased. This would assist the libraries in being able to promote it more heavily and to increase their staff and collections.

Summary of Basic Equipment Grants & Gates Upgrades of Equipment – Sara Parker, State Librarian

With the Council having a major agenda item today on the uses of the federal library funds a look at the technology grants which have gone out to libraries might be helpful. The Council over the years has had several discussions about basic equipment.

During the years of 1997-2001 there was a very open program called “Basic Equipment”. As long as it was equipment related, libraries could apply. The libraries have expressed they would like to have this program return. The most meaningful way the Council might look at the program would be in terms of the successes of libraries in receiving grants, not receiving grants, or not applying for grants.

The Gates grants and the use of the federal library funds that went toward hardware upgrades are shown in Attachment B. These grants were for basic computers. The total amount of money was approximately \$7 million dollars.

An important item for the Council to consider is what Missouri’s public libraries would have looked like without the \$7 million. Libraries’ budgets have not grown to accommodate this kind of technology. The computers might have been the same but at the expense of diminishing book collections, shorter library service hours, or fewer staff.

Recommended uses of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds for FY2007 – Barbara Reading, Director of Library Development; Diana Very, LSTA Grants Officer

Each year in December the State Library asks the Council to review the plan for expenditures of the LSTA funds for the next funding year which would begin on July 1. There are two calls for grants each year. By having the Council review this in December, it gives the libraries more time to write the grants. The reason for looking at this in December is because the call for grant applications which the State Library will release at the end of January for an April deadline would include any new grant opportunities that the State Library would offer.

Very said she will be conducting some grant writing workshops around the state in January and February. There has been a directive from both Secretary Carnahan and Sara Parker that the State Library is to fund as many grant applications as possible, if they are unclear, staff should call the library and ask for a clarification.

Attachment C is based on LSTA funds received this past year of \$3,096,000. Congress has not yet passed the budget for the next fiscal year. Therefore a final figure is not available at this time.

The proposed LSTA plan is in two parts. One is descriptive which lists each of the project types and the other is a colored summary which is broken out by the type of programs the State Library is offering. This addresses the four themes for use of the LSTA funds. There are six new types of grant programs.

B. Reading said the State Library is going to change the format of the grant call announcements. It is to include directions on which grant the library is to apply for to receive funding for their projects. It is an effort to make it more clear to the libraries which type of grant to apply for to address their particular need or project.

“Supporting Excellence in Service” has three grant categories which were carried over from previous year - grants to libraries to do local training of staff; grants to libraries to train library trustees locally; and the “ShowMe Steps” grants which allow staff to attend workshops and conferences in other locations.

“Serving the Whole Community” are grant projects that target groups such as youth, seniors, and literacy. There are two new categories under the youth services group- “Teen Spaces” and “Summer Library Program”.

“Libraries as Innovators” focuses on the planning and development of better library services in general. There will be a grant opportunity for partnerships with community entities and projects for under-served groups.

The second area deals with statewide projects conducted through the State Library. Under the “Maximizing Service in the Electronic Environment” there are two major projects. One is the “Virtually Missouri” digital portal and the other is “ShowMe the World” which is the resource sharing by public libraries and using the support of interlibrary loan and the Missouri group catalog. These are continued from the previous year.

This includes three new areas which are: grants writing workshops, a library ambassador’s workshop series to help library staff receive the skills needed to talk productively with their community; and the no limits learning to expanding the electronic and distance learning opportunities.

In the “Serving the Community” section there are several new areas of emphasis. The teen spaces and centers is one of these. There are also several new areas of focus for the literacy activities. There will be some customized training for library staff on literacy and also on how to address the new immigrants to the state.

“Libraries as Innovators” has two projects listed. One is the Continuing Education Committee which meets and advises the State Librarian on continuing education and also fosters collaboration among all of the training providers within the state. Library Development work is also included in this category.

Carr asked the Council if there were any additions or deletions to the LSTA recommendation report. Rickerson motioned the recommendations be presented to Secretary Carnahan as submitted. Darst seconded. Motion carried.

Report on LSTA Evaluation Meeting – Barbara Reading, Director of Library Development; Diana Very, LSTA Grants Officer

B. Reading stated this is the fourth year of the five-year plan. The State Library is required to do an evaluation of the entire five-year program. This evaluation is due in March of 2007. A new five-year plan is due in July of 2007. At the November training meeting in Washington, DC, instructions were provided on how to perform the evaluation of the program.

The evaluation follows a basic outline which would discuss the different goals in the plan for library service and present an update on what was achieved and the major activities conducted. Each state is required to pick one area out of their plan for a more in-depth evaluation.

The State Library has begun the planning work for the evaluation outline and will be giving the Council updates on how this is proceeding. The State Library may be asking some of the Council members to assist by serving on a planning committee.

This is the second time that all of the states will have to do a five-year evaluation. Some states have contracted with outside evaluators to do the evaluation. Missouri's past evaluation was for the most part done in-house. The State Library has approached some other states with the idea of incorporating some elements of peer evaluations into the process. Approximately nine states are interested in sharing information, collaborating, and working cooperatively on an approach to the evaluation process.

Update and news from the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies – John Budd

The School of Information Science and Learning Technologies is an American Library Association accredited library school. According to a recent study on faculty productivity mainly publication and publication related activities, the faculty of MU's library science program ranks 9th in the nation in total productivity.

There are four programs within the school. The Masters program in Library Science has been ALA accredited since 1969. Next year the school will be celebrating its 40th year in the program. This year the school was accredited by ALA for the maximum seven year period. The Masters in Library Science program has approximately 300 students enrolled. Most students are in Missouri but the program is also offered to students in eastern Nebraska.

This is an accessible program. There are online components but there is also insistence on face-to-face meetings of instructors with students.

The school also has a doctoral program. There was funding secured last year from IMLS the amount of \$450,000 to recruit three classes of PhD students. The first group entered in the fall of 2005.

Rayburn announced a current project under way by SISLT is a cooperative project with the Kansas City Public Library. The project would be an in-depth study of how library users perceive libraries and the relationship of the library to its users and the community. Rayburn said a meeting was held with Crosby Kempker, Director of the Kansas City Public Library, members of the MU faculty, and Wayne Wiggin. SISLT was looking for a library where an in-depth study could be done of a particular library, its users, and the community. Kempker was willing to have his library serve as the library for the study. The next step is to conceive what the design of the study will be. SISLT is also interested in studying the community as well as the users and the libraries.

If the study reaches its full potential, it may become a multi-faceted study that could take three to five years to complete. There is the possibility of designing a set of methods practicing librarians can use to replicate this study in their own libraries

State Librarian's Report – Sara Parker, State Librarian

Parker said there were no additions to the report as submitted.

Approval of the minutes from the September 9, 2005 meeting:

Fuchs motioned to accept the minutes as submitted. Darst seconded. Motion carried. The minutes of the September 9, 2005 meeting were approved as submitted without corrections or changes.

2006 Meetings of the Secretary's Council on Library Development:

Parker said traditionally, quarterly meetings of the Council were held in mid February or March, in May or June, August or September, then in November or December. The meetings were held on Fridays. Carr said an e-mail would be sent to the members with suggested dates for the 2006 meetings.

Bray suggested the meetings of the Council be held in Jefferson City when the legislature is in session.

Update and news from the State Historical Society – Gary Kremer, Director

The State Historical Society was founded by the Missouri Press Association in 1898 as venue for saving historical newspapers. Three years later a statute was passed making the Society the trustee for the State of Missouri for historical records. The statute giving the authority is Chapter 183. The statute indicates the society's duties include collecting books, maps, documents, manuscripts, portraits, and all information useful for the study

of the history of Missouri and the middle west; preserving those materials; publishing information relative to the history of this region; and retaining offices where researchers can use the collected materials. The Society is located at the Ellis Library on the University of Missouri-Columbia campus.

The Society has in excess of 50,000 reels of microfilm of newspapers dating back to the Missouri Gazette published in 1808. Four to five hundred reels of microfilm are added each year. It was discovered most of the microfilm prior to 1980 was in danger of self-destruction. The ones at risk have been identified and removed from the warehouse immediately and sent to American Micro in Kansas City for duplication. Currently 75% of the film has been duplicated without losing any of the images. The Society has raised the \$200,000 needed to pay for this duplication.

One thing which helps to bring notoriety to the Society is its huge art collection. There is a large collection of George Bingham paintings and an enormous collection of Thomas Hart Benton paintings. In addition to this there are rotating shows every three months. In January the show will be the photography of Oliver Shucart which features Missouri landscapes. The current exhibit is the works of Carl Vaudmere. This is the record of Prince Maximillian of Germany's trip following the Lewis and Clark trail up the Missouri River. This will be on exhibit until December 30.

Issues and priorities for the 2006 legislative Session – Margaret Conroy, MLA Legislative Chair

Conroy extends Randy Scherr's regrets for being unable to attend. Scherr is the Missouri Library Association's (MLA) Legislative Lobbyist.

The Athletes and Entertainers' Tax (A&E) has come under a lot of scrutiny and was amended to fund stadiums. It did not pass last year. The issue is expected to arise again.

Fuchs said schools were concerned over the Governor's announcement of the 65% rule. This means 65% of the public schools funding would have to go for teachers and classrooms. Libraries and guidance counselors have been excluded from this. Even the school librarians are required to hold a teaching certificate. MLA as well as the Missouri Association of School Librarians will be watching this particular item.

Conroy said with regards to MOREnet, Bill Mitchell has been very busy speaking with Representatives, Senators, and the Governor's Budget Office staff to make sure everyone is clear on why we have MOREnet, what impact more cuts to MOREnet would mean and what impact the current cuts have had on public libraries, schools, academic institutions, and state government. MLA recommended that MOREnet contact Representative Icet and speak with him.

MLA will be watching the TIF legislation more closely than in past years. Scherr felt there would be some strides made in TIF legislation this year, including an expansion of the TIF boards to allow two more seats for public entities which will hopefully include

public libraries. This legislation will give the public library districts a seat at the TIF table. The city council does not have to take the recommendation of the TIF board, but if they do not take the recommendation, they will have to give some things up in order to get their TIF passed. Hopefully this will help to put a “lid” on some of the bad TIFs being proposed.

MLA feels the 1965 Boundary Limit Law will not be opened up for discussion this session.

Reading, M. stated the Secretary of State’s Office has submitted its budget request. It contained three items related to libraries. They were:

- To restore the \$1 million in state aid to public libraries. There are now two additional libraries which qualify for state aid.
- Full funding for the Athletes and Entertainers’ Tax to fully implement the statute as it currently exists. This would be approximately \$2,440,000 in addition to the \$100,000 in the core budget from the current fiscal year.
- A small request was also submitted in the amount of \$33,000 for the summer reading program.

In terms of the general budget, the feeling is optimistic.

Recognition Program for Public Library Institutes – Brenda Sites, Continuing Education Consultant

Sites spoke to Attachment D included in the Council member’s packets. The memo highlights the new institute recognition program for attendees.

The Library Skills Institute has been offered by the State Library for fifteen years. It covers a good foundation of a wide variety of library skills. It is specifically geared toward people without an advanced library degree for all levels of staff. It gives library staff a chance to get fundamental skills instruction.

The Library Skills Institute has been broken down into nine core classes. This includes the basic class which is the first class people take when they attend institute. The institute lasts for four days and is the equivalent of 19 hours of instruction. It is a very intense educational institute.

The attendees will receive certificates for attending. Those who have completed the curriculum will also receive a certificate. A sample of the certificate was passed out to the Council members.

Council Business

Parker said the Council does not have any members whose terms are expiring this year.

Other Business

Parker said Secretary Carnahan and Executive Deputy Secretary of State Mark R. Reading wanted the Council to receive signed copies of the Blue Book with the individual Council member's name engraved on the front. These were distributed to the Council members present. Absent Council members will receive their copy via the postal service.

Rickerson announced he would be leaving MOBIUS in March of 2006.

Adjournment:

Carr adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.